

Weston House
1016-18 Howard Avenue
First Ward Neighborhood
Altoona
Blair County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5793

HABS
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7 ALTO
36-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

WESTON HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5793

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Location: 1016-18 Howard Avenue

Date of Erection: 1860s

Description: The two-story house has a wood-frame structure, now clad with asbestos shingles. The four-bay house was a double house, each half measuring approximately 16'-3" x 24'-5", with rear additions. The side-gable roof has cornice returns on the gable ends. There are two different one-story porches on the front, reflecting a long history of separate ownership.

On the interior, the plans of the main block are virtually identical and unaltered. The door opens directly into the living room, which opens through a wide doorway into the dining room, which also contains the stairway. The kitchen is in the rear addition.

History: This double house was probably built by Michael and John Weston before they had properly acquired the land. In 1868, Michael Weston bought half of a lot from Robert H. McCormick for \$210; John Weston bought the other half in 1872 for \$300.

Michael Weston bought No. 1018 but died soon after. William C. Gardner, a machinist, rented it in 1880 and bought it from Weston's heirs in 1882. Gardner, who in 1880 had a wife and baby daughter, immediately sold it to A. P. MacDonald, who sold it six months later to Sarah Lytle. Her husband, Albert, was clerk to the foreman of the PRR freight car shop. The Lytles lived here until 1897, when they sold the house to Emily J. Hays, who rented it to Westley Downs, a machinist, who lived here with his wife, Mary, son Charles, the city electrician, and two other children. In 1903, Hays sold the property to Ard G. Steel, a clerk for the PRR.

No. 1016 was occupied by John Weston, a carpenter, even before he bought it in 1872. Weston lived here until his death in 1877; his heirs sold it to W. W. Evans, who rented it to Edmund Murphy, assistant foreman of the PRR paint shops. Murphy, who in 1880 was living here with his wife and daughter, stayed here until about 1901.

Sources: Maps: 1859, 1882. City directories. Tax assessment records. Deed books: V/238, 49/458, 49/460, 49/461, 117/381, 145/355, 299/512, 779/77, 35/153, 37/10, 37/12, 149/307, 191/14, 299/510. U.S. Census, 1870, 1880, 1900.

Project Information: This report was part of a larger project to document the city of Altoona, Pennsylvania. The project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER), Robert Kapsch, chief, at the request of America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), Randy Cooley, director. An overview of the history of the city (HABS No. PA-5784) and an overview of the first ward neighborhood (HABS No. PA-5788) provide context for these buildings as well as a comprehensive list of sources. See also additional HABS reports on buildings in the city and other neighborhoods.

This report was prepared by HABS Senior Historian Alston K. Hoagland, project leader and editor, in the summer of 1989. Hoagland's and other project historians' work was published as Railroad City: Four Historic Neighborhoods in Altoona, Pennsylvania (Washington, D.C.: HABS/HAER, National Park Service, 1990), edited by Kim E. Wallace, supervisory historian, and Sara Amy Leach, HABS historian.

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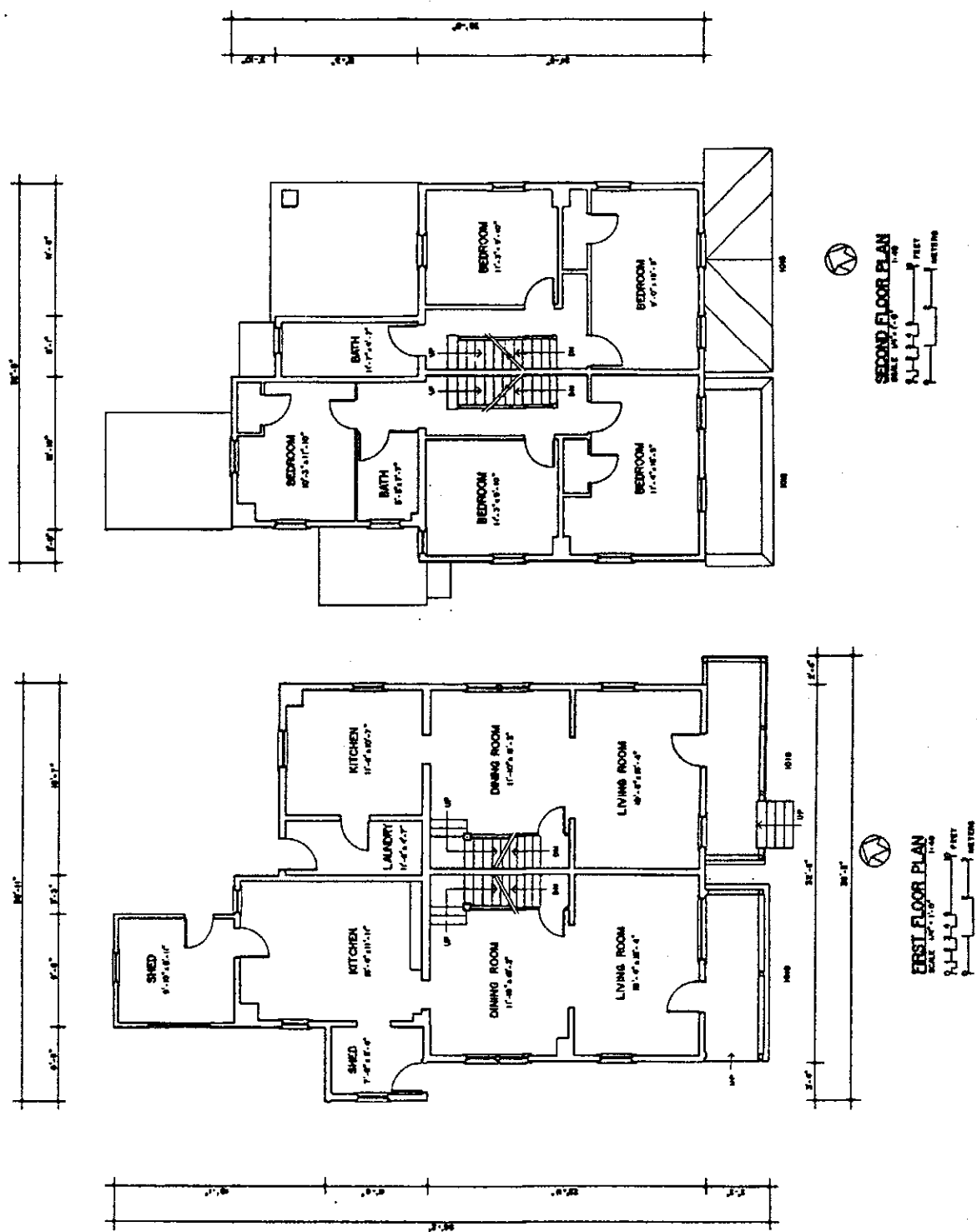


Fig. 1.1 First- and second-floor plans. Drawn by Elaine Pierce, June 1989.

Addendum To:
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REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

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